

Amendments to the Drawings:

The drawing sheets attached in connection with the above-identified application containing Figures 1-14 are being presented as sheets to be substituted for the previously submitted drawing sheets. Figures 1-14 have been amended. The specific changes which have been made to the drawing sheets are presented below.

As to Figure 1a, the surface shading has been removed and reference numeral 4 has been moved

As to Figure 1b, the surface shading has been removed.

As to Figure 1c, the surface shading has been removed and reference numeral 1 has been added.

As to Figure 1d, the surface shading has been removed.

As to Figure 2a, the surface shading has been removed; reference numerals 4, 5.1, 8.1, 6, and 4.1 have been moved; and another reference numeral 4 has been added.

As to Figure 2b, the surface shading has been removed and reference numeral 9 has been moved.

As to Figure 2c, the surface shading has been removed and reference numerals 3, 9, and 5 have been moved.

As to Figure 2d, the surface shading has been removed and reference numerals 9 and 5 have been moved; an extra reference numeral 8 has been removed; and reference numeral 3 has been added.

As to Figure 3, the shading has been removed.

As to Figure 4, the shading has been removed and the Figure has been moved from the drawing sheet 6/15 to drawing sheet 5/15.

As to Figure 5a, the shading has been removed, the figure has moved and rotated on the drawing sheet 6/15, and reference numeral 8.2 has been moved.

As to Figure 5b, the shading has been removed and the figure has been moved and rotated on the drawing sheet 6/15 and reference numeral 7 has been added.

As to Figures 6a-6b, the surface shading in Figure 6b has been removed, reference numeral 6.3 has been moved, and Figure 6a has switched places with Figure 6b on drawing sheet 7/15.

As to Figures 7a-7c, the figures has been moved from drawing sheet 5/15 to 6/15 and reference numerals 5.6, 5.1, and 5.2 has been moved in Figure 7c.

As to Figure 8, the shading has been removed and the figure has moved and rotated on drawing sheet 8/15.

As to Figures 9a-9c, the shading was replaced with cross-sectional lines; the box in the lower left hand corner of Figure 9c has been removed; Figures 9a-9c have been moved and rotated on drawing sheet 8/15; and the label "270°" have been added to Figure 9c.

As to Figures 10a-10b, the shadings have been removed, reference numerals 3 and 4 have been deleted in Figure 10c, reference numeral 3 in Figure 10b has been moved, and Figures 10a-10b have been moved and rotated on drawing sheet 9/15.

As to Figure 11, it has been moved from drawing sheet 9/15 to drawing sheet 10/15.

As to Figures 12a-12b, they have been moved from drawing sheet 10/15 to drawing sheet 11/15.

As to Figures 12c-12d, the figures have been moved from drawing sheet 11/15 to drawing sheet 12/15 and reference numeral 5 in Figure 12c has been moved.

As to Figure 13a, reference numeral 6.4 has moved and the figure has moved from drawing sheet 12/15 to drawing sheet 13/15.

As to Figure 13b, it has been moved from drawing sheet 13/15 to 14/15.

As to Figure 13c, it has been moved and rotated on drawing sheet 14/15.

As to Figures 14a-14c, they have been moved and rotated on drawing sheet 15/15 and different hatching has been used.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1-20 are requested to be cancelled. Claims 21-49 are being added. After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 21-49 are now pending in this application.

Drawings

The PTO has objected to the drawings for failing to conform to the minimum requirements of the USPTO. Applicant has submitted replacement drawings. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

The PTO has rejected claims 1-20 as being anticipated by JP 01-085809 (“Mikio”). For at least the following reasons, this rejection is not believed to be applicable to either of the newly submitted independent claims 21 and 36.

Claim 21 includes, among other features, a drive shaft comprising at least two parts wherein the roller band is held between the two parts of the drive shaft. In contrast, Mikio teaches a band 20 with holes 41 that mate with the teeth of gears 42 and 43 connected to a shaft 37. Thus Mikio does not teach or suggest all the features of claim 21, let alone the advantages that flow from the claimed structure. Moreover, fixing the band to the drive shaft in Mikio would be antithetical to the operation of Mikio’s device.

Claim 36 includes, among other features, a roller band that is guided in two layers past at least one passage opening in the housing, wherein the openings of the roller band are distributed in such a manner that, when a passage opening is closed, each of the two layers of the roller band covers respective portions of the passage opening and wherein the passage opening is configured to open by the two layers of the roller band moving in opposite directions and opening up the passage opening from an intermediate point within the passage. In contrast, Mikio merely teaches a single layer that passes over a passage opening. Thus Mikio does not teach or suggest all the features of claim 36, let alone the advantages that flow from the claimed structure. For example, multiple layers provide more stability in the air flow control member, and the claimed design requires less rotation of the drive shaft, so that

opening and closing of the passage take place more quickly, more efficiently and more quietly.

Claims 22-35 and 37-49 depend from either claim 21 or claim 36 and are allowable therewith, for at least the reasons set forth above, without regard to the further patentable limitations contained therein.

For at least these reasons, favorable reconsideration of the application and withdrawal of the prior art rejection are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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